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## *Flu Shots Still Available For Persons at High Risk*

### *Health Department continues to provide flu vaccination to those in high risk categories*

Milwaukee – The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) still has limited quantities of the influenza vaccine, which will be made available to City of Milwaukee residents who are at increased risk for flu complications. The influenza high-risk categories listed below have been based on guidelines put forth by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**WHO:** MHD high-risk categories include:

- all children aged 6–23 months
- adults aged  $\geq 65$  years
- health-care workers
- pregnant women in their second or third trimester during influenza season
- anyone aged  $\geq 2$  years with underlying chronic conditions, such as
  - chronic heart, kidney or lung disorders (including asthma)
  - diabetes
  - immune system suppression (including from cancer, medications or HIV)
- all children 2–4 years of age
- household contacts of any of the above

**WHY:** Influenza is a very serious illness. Influenza activity is currently widespread in Milwaukee and other parts of Wisconsin. It is not too late to be immunized. Influenza vaccine is very effective, preventing between 70% and 90% of cases that would otherwise occur.

**WHERE and WHEN:** *Persons meeting the criteria above should call the Milwaukee Health Department's Flu Hotline (414-286-3616) **beginning at 8:00 a.m. Monday morning, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003.*** Milwaukee Health Department staff will be on hand to provide details to eligible individuals about where and when the vaccine will be available.

**NOTE:** *MHD will be providing vaccine only to those at highest risk for flu complications.* Anyone wishing to obtain additional information on the flu or flu vaccines can visit the MHD website at [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health) or contact their private health care provider. MHD will continue to assess influenza activity in Milwaukee, and will continue to target available vaccine to those most in need.